

# THE NATIONAL ERA.

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## BUSINESS NOTICES.

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Agents and others, in sending names are requested to give the name of the Post Office, the city, and the State.

Orders are coming in daily for papers without the pay. No paper will be sent except the pay accompany the order. Funds may be sent at our risk, by mail, taking care to have the letter put in an envelope, and well sealed, directed, post paid, to the Post Office.

Any clergyman who will procure four subscribers, and send us eight dollars, may have a fifty copy gratis for one year.

Accounts are kept with each subscriber, and when we receive money from him on his subscription, it is immediately passed to his credit.

Agents will notice that we keep an account with each subscriber. If no account is kept with the agents; and in transmitting money to them which they can not account for, we will return it to them on their remittance, and if all account, forward the money with the names, so as to make the account even at each remittance.

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Mr. V. B. Palmer, at his newspaper agency, New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore, is duly authorized to procure advertisements for the paper.

Within the last week we have received two or three requests to have the direction of papers changed, without informing us to what post office, county, or State, the papers have been sent. Without these, we cannot change the direction.

We invite the attention of those who are remitting money to the publisher of this paper to the following table, showing the rate of discount on uncurrent money in this city. We earnestly hope that those who send money will endeavor to send such bank bills as are at the lowest discount:

Washington, D. C. -	-	Par.
Baltimore -	-	Par.
Philadelphia -	-	Par.
New York city -	-	Par.
New York State -	-	2/4 per cent. per dit.
New England -	-	3/4 do.
New Jersey -	-	3/4 do.
Eastern Pennsylvania -	-	3/4 do.
Western Pennsylvania -	-	1 1/2 do.
Maryland -	-	3/4 do.
Virginia -	-	3/4 do.
West. Virginia -	-	3/4 do.
Ohio -	-	3/4 do.
Indiana -	-	3/4 do.
Kentucky -	-	3/4 do.
Tennessee -	-	3/4 do.
Michigan -	-	3/4 do.
Canada -	-	5 do.

## THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 14, 1848.

### LAMARTINE'S HISTORY OF THE GIRONDINS.

The second volume of this work has made its appearance from the press of the Harper's. The interest of the story deepens as it proceeds. The characters brought into notice in the first volume are presented in bolder colors, rising in some instances to tragic sublimity, awakening by turns emotions of disgust, pity, hatred and admiration.

The sentimental philanthropy and peace-loving philosophy of Robespierre the Deputy, rebuked and thwarted by the enemies of the Revolution, gives place to the bitterness, jealousy, and intolerance, of Robespierre the Dictator. Danton emerges from the obscurity of a dissolute and needy law advocate, and becomes the Mirabeau of the populace, urges on the attack upon the Tuilleries of the 10th of August, mounting to the chair of Minister of Justice, to use his own words, through the battle made by the Marseillais canon.

Marat, the lean, mad anchore, leaves his damp underground cell, and enters the tribune of the Convention, to plead earnestly, almost pathetically, for blood—more blood. The falling fortunes of the Royal family—the imbecility and irresolution of the King—the fiery spirit and energy of the Queen—the war of the two rival factions in the Convention—resulting in the execution of the King and the overthrow of the Girondins—are sketched with a vigorous hand. The pictures are life-like.

The volume opens with the arrival of the Marcellus battalion in Paris. The attack on the King's palace and the downfall of the Monarchy follows.

In illustration of the fanaticism of the time, the historian states that, for the purpose of furnishing a pretext to the people for rising against the Court, Grangeneuve, a Girondin deputy, actually urged Chabot, one of his colleagues, to murder him, and lay the crime at the door of the aristocrats.

Chabot listened to Grangeneuve with admiration. "It is the Genius of Patriotism that inspires you," he said; "and if two victims are requisite, with me, Grangeneuve, there shall be, not the assassin—for I implore you to postpone that—but my murderer." This very night I will walk alone and unarmed in the most lonely and darkest parts, near the Louvre; place there two deviated swords; let us agree on a signal, and when I am shot, let your wife be present, and without a cry. They will fly—my body will be found next day. You shall accuse the Court, and the vengeance of the people will do the rest."

Chabot had no direct agency in this massacre. He knew what was to take place—his timid nature shrank from it—he indeed disengaged it; but he hesitated to act decided against it.

"At this time," says Lamartine, "Robespierre and Saint Just left the Jacobins together, exhausted and half dead, from a day passed in the heat of the tumult of deliberation, and the threatening aspect of the morrow. Robespierre, immersed in thought, ascended to the top of the joiner's shop, where he had been occupied, with his eye, the crisis of the Revolution, with the calm impassibility of a logician, who, in the heat of the battle, only thinks of getting out of it."

Saint Just lived in a small room, on the right of the joiner's shop, where Robespierre had resided. The two friends arrived at the door of Saint Just's house, discussing the events of the night, and the threatening aspect of the morrow. Robespierre, however, took off his garments and made ready for repose. "What are you doing?" asked Saint Just. "I am going to bed," returned Robespierre. "What can you think of sleeping on such a night?" "I have no fear for the safety of the town." "Do you know that it is the last will, perhaps, the last of thousands of our fellow-creatures, who are men at the moment you fall asleep, and when you awake will be like corpses?" "Aha!" said Saint Just. "I don't know; but I am sure that we must make these convulsions of society, struggling between life and death; but what am I? And after all, those who perish this night are not the friends of our ideas. Adieu!" And with these words he fell asleep.

"The next morning, at daybreak, Saint Just, on awaking, beheld Robespierre, who was pacing with hasty steps, up and down the room, occasionally stopping to look out of the window, or listen to the various noises in the streets. Saint Just, astonished to see his friend at this early hour, asked him what he was doing so early. "What brings me back?" cried Robespierre. "Sleep! I have not slept; I have watched like water down the streets? Oh no!" continued he, with a sardonic smile, "I have not slept; I have watched like a raven on the roof; or I have had the weakness not to close my eyes; but Danton, he was dead."

Our readers, perhaps, will scarcely be prepared to receive the true picture of the Tyrant of the Reign of Terror in the following sketch of Robespierre, who is seen in this volume slowly but surely feeling his way to the guillotine.

Robespierre was a philosopher of the Revolution. By a power of abdication, he was to use the expression, separated from himself, to confound himself with the people. His superiority arose from the fact that no one but himself seen

to serve the Revolution for itself, and he elevated himself on his disinterestedness. By a natural consequence the people recognized themselves in him. The Revolution was in progress, but it was not so much a political cause as a religious of the mind. The Jacobins, who venerated him in the name of the unfortunate to whom the founder of the deaf and dumb school had consecrated his life. Deputations from the sections endeavored to penetrate into the prisons, to gain access to the arch leading from the Place de l'Abbaye to the court, with orders to admit any one to enter, but no one to go out. A single deputy ventured to pass the arch: "Are we not in the heart of the city?" "Yes, we are in the heart of the city." "Are we not in the Convention?" "Yes, we are in the Convention." "Are we not in the Convention?" "Yes, we are in the Convention." "Are we not in the Convention?" "Yes, we are in the Convention." "Are we not in the Convention?" "Yes, we are in the Convention."

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## THE NATIONAL ERA.

## THIRTIETH CONGRESS.

## FIRST SESSION.

FEBRUARY 9.

**SENATE.**—The Vice President laid before the Senate a communication from the Treasury Department, containing information concerning the amount of land in Illinois that had been granted for military purposes since 1819.

Mr. Hale presented the memorial of J. P. Andrews, of Salem, Massachusetts, against all wars and preparations for wars.

Mr. Dix submitted the resolutions of the Legislature of New York, against the extension of slavery.

Mr. Benton presented a memorial from Alexandre Vattimo, asking the establishment of a permanent agency for the exchange of all public documents printed under authority of Congress, for the public documents of foreign Governments.

Several pension bills were reported from the Committee on Pensions.

On the motion of Mr. Webster,

*Moved*, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making further provision respecting imprisonment for debt.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the special order, the Ten Regiment Bill, and Mr. Dix spoke from one to three o'clock upon the subject. He opposed the policy of war and conquest in general; dwelt upon the cost of life and money; urged that the true policy was to make peace as soon as it could be effected; defended the Administration against the charge of a design to conquer all Mexico; still, would vote for the bill before the Senate. His speech seemed to be distasteful to the War party, except to those close, when he avowed his purpose to support the bill.

**House.**—The Senate bill providing additional quarters near New Orleans, for soldiers going to and returning from Mexico, was passed.

The Senate bill to promote the filling up of vacancies in the volunteer corps in service, was reported from the Committee on Military Affairs, without amendment.

Mr. Caleb B. Smith reported a bill, from the Committee on the Territories, for the establishment of a Territorial Government in Oregon, to contain the usual clause for the prohibition of slavery. Made the special order for Monday, March 14th.

Numerous private bills were reported.

Mr. Bowlin, by leave, introduced a bill in relation to the better security of passengers on steam-boats, &c.

Resolutions from the Legislature of Pennsylvania, in relation to cheap postage, were presented, and referred to the Committee on the Post Office.

The House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, and took up the bill to authorize its introduction.

Mr. Henry said he would interrupt the gentleman from Massachusetts. The pending question was on the motion to print.

Mr. Palfrey said he was strictly in order.

The Speaker was also understood to decide that the gentleman from Massachusetts was in order in alluding to facts as illustrations of an argument.

Mr. Palfrey said he believed he could satisfy the gentleman from Indiana himself that he was in order in the remarks which he had made on the question before the House. He maintained that this memorial, which came from the conference of Friends, ought to be printed, because no other way would it be in the ordinary course of things come before the House. When such memorials as that which he held in his hand, and that presented by his friend—memorials to which signatures were obtained with so much pain, in discussing great interest in the subject—were presented to the consideration of the House, if the House would not allow the rules pertaining to matters of that kind to be carried into effect—it they were to be buried in the hands of their standing committees, then he said it was most material and important that the House should print them, at least that through the medium of the press these petitions might be brought to the view of the House and of the people at large. It was to say this that he had risen, and the gentleman from Indiana would see that his argument was pertinent. He should vote for the motion to print.

The question was then taken by yeas and nays on the motion to lay on the table the motion to print, and decided in the negative—yeas 81, nays 93. The memorial was ordered to be printed, by a vote of 93 to 83.

The House then resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, and took up the Loan Bill.

Mr. Marsh occupied his hour in a speech, severely animadverting upon the policy of the Government in relation to Texas annexation and the Mexican war. He took occasion to denounce the Democratic party, especially in connection with the Wilmot Proviso, which he styled a humbug, got up for merely partisan purposes. He deprecated the policy of acquiring territory, and dreading the advent of another Missouri struggle.

Mr. Brown addressed the Committee in defense of the war policy.

The Committee then rose, and the House adjourned.

**House.**—Mr. Johnson introduced a bill to create the office of surveyor of the public lands of Oregon.

Mr. King, of Massachusetts, presented the memorial of the Yearly Meeting of Friends, for New England, praying Congress to take measures for the termination of the war with Mexico; he moved that it be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and printed. The motion was divided—the memorial was referred, and the question then being upon the printing, Mr. King said, that he supposed a memorial so important would be printed without a question. It came from nine thousand persons residing in six sovereign States—persons eminent for their worth and patriotism—eminent men who mind their own business—who maintain their own, pay taxes for general purposes, educate their own children. They have no party organization, and never vex Congress with petitions, except on religious and moral questions. The printing would cost three or four dollars. A few minutes before, they had ordered the printing of a bill providing for the payment of losses sustained in the military service. On the table was a petition, printed by the Senate, of officers of the United States in Mexico, praying that provision be made for the old disabled officers. To refuse to print this memorial would show a determination not to entertain with any respect the subject of bringing this war to a close.

Mr. Cobb, of Georgia, was opposed to the printing, without any reference to the contents of the petition or character of the petitioners. This opposition had ever been manifested in the House, no matter how respectable the petitioners. The extent to which they had gone, with some few exceptions, was, to print the memorials and resolutions of the State Legislatures. If they printed the memorial of Friends, they should print those of any other respectable citizens. He hoped the House would not establish a new principle which would produce consequences very inconvenient, and he moved to lay the motion to print upon the table; and on this motion Mr. King asked the yeas and nays.

Mr. Hale called for the reading of the memorial, and then remarked—that the memorialists, in praying Congress to feel the responsibility of its situation, and the importance of measures to bring about a peace, charged Congress with not feeling its responsibility, and having no desire for peace—and in charging this, they charge a falsehood on Congress. He admitted that Friends were a respectable people, but they had been opposed to their country in every contest. They may have been honest, but their fault was, in permitting their peculiar notions to overcome their patriotism. They knew that they were opposed to the country in the war with Great Britain. They prayed then for peace, unconditional peace, without reference to the national honor or integrity. He would admit that they were honest, creditable persons, but beyond that he could not go. "Though they are

very honest and very conscientious people, perhaps it may be that, on the subject of war, they are not so conscientious as they might be. I know well that they profess to be opposed to military chieftains as the occupants of the high offices of this Republic, but they have voted for military chieftains for high office; and may they not do it again? I know this is inconsistent with their character, but we know that all men are liable to error; and if we scrutinize the Quaker character, after conceding to them purity of character, we shall find that they are not exempt from the frailties of human nature; and therefore, while they are inconsistent, they may claim to be conscientious. When they deemed it necessary, they could vote for a military chieftain of the Federal party, and may they not at some period be brought to support a war? Sir, I am opposed to a motion to support a war."

Mr. Turney spoke until four o'clock in favor of the bill, and in vindication of the Administration.

Mr. Breese obtained the floor, and the Senate, after an executive session, adjourned till Monday.

**House.**—Several Senate bills were taken up, and appropriately referred.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the President, in reply to a resolution of the House, asking whether any communication has been received from Mexico, or proposition from Mexican commissioners or authorities, for a treaty of peace. The President reported that nothing of the kind has been received since the counter-project of the Mexican commissioners of September 6th.

The House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the private calendar, and took up the bill for the relief of the heirs of Paul Jones. A long debate ensued, which was not terminated when the Committee rose, and reported progress. The House adjourned till Monday.

of Mr. Hale, not only upon this question, but the question of slavery. Mr. Hale rejoined, defending his position in very animated style. The further consideration of the subject was then postponed, and the Senate resumed the consideration of the Ten Regiment Bill.

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For the National Era.

## GENIUS AND ITS DEVELOPMENTS.

Our idea of the present era cannot, perhaps, be more concisely expressed than by using a simple figure: Genius is now nearing her social and political fabric for future ages, and Genius is the presiding Architect. The latter hath descended from the skies, and consecrated herself to the earth. She hath laid aside her robes of light, and assumed the garb of a workman. That voice which once rolled on so loftily in the musical numbers of Homer, and breathed such pure harmony on the rich and flowing strains of David, is now in the hands of the Genius of the age, the continual combination occasioned in carrying up the massive walls of the state structure. As and until the topmost stone is laid, we must expect that Genius, like our contemporaries, will be a practical utilitarian. Or, in words so long as action necessarily implies, Genius is now nearing her social and political fabric for future ages, and Genius is the presiding Architect. 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